

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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R 191000Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8354

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18008

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, BM, TH

SUBJ: FURTHER BRIEFINGS OF THAI OFFICIALS ON THE
IBMND AND ON BURMESE TRAFFICKING AND DIS-
IDENT GROUPS

REF: A. BANGKOK 16022

B. STATE 195730

C. BANGKOK 15271

1. DURING SEPARATE LUNCHES NOVEMBER 9 AND 16, THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR BRIEFED TWO MORE KEY THAI OFFICIALS
ON THE UNFORTUNATE ROLE THE IBMND PLAYS IN GIVING SUPPORT
TO BURMESE DISSIDENT AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING GROUPS.
THE EARLIER CONVERSATION WAS WITH VITTHAYA VEJJEJIVA,
NEWLY-DESIGNATED PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN
MINISTER. THE SECOND WAS WITH GENERAL KRIS SIVARA,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE THE ROYAL THAI ARMY, WHO
ADDITIONALLY CARRIES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF "KEEPER
OF THE PEACE" UNDER THE SANYA GOVERNMENT.

2. BOTH INDIVIDUALS EXHIBITED THE THAI TENDENCY TO
LUMP, UNDER THE KMT RUBRIC, THE IBMND WITH THE CHINESE
IRREGULAR FORCES (CIF) OF GENERALS LI WEN-HUAN AND
TUAN HSI-WEN. KRIS HAD A SLIGHTLY CLEARER IDEA OF THE
SECRET

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DIFFERENCE IN THE ROLES BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS,
AND WAS AWARE THAT THE IBMND OPERATED A RADIO STATION.
BUT NEITHER SEEMED TO KNOW THE MURKIER ASPECTS OF
IBMND AND CIF OPERATIONS.

3. KRIS STATED THAT LI WAS STILL HEAVILY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. HE SAID THAT THE THAI NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD SOON BE TAKING UP THE ISSUE OF RTG SUPPORT TO THESE CHINESE GROUPS.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE CONTINUING WITH OUR EFFORTS IN PURSUING DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTION TO URGE THE RTG TO WITHDRAW ITS HOSPITALITY TO THE IBMND (REFTEL B). IN VIEW OF THE RECENT SHARP MILITARY CLASHES IN THE NEIGHBORING SHAN STATES BETWEEN THE BURMESE ARMY AND THE BURMESE COMMUNIST PARTY/WHITE FLAG, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL COULD WELL DECIDE, HOWEVER, THAT THE CIF AND THE IBMND ARE VITAL TO THAI INTERESTES IN THE NORTH. GIVEN THE INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS CIF ROLE IN NARCTICS TRAFFICKING, WE PLAN TO DIRECT FUTHER APPROACHES TO THE RTG PRINCIPALLY AGAINST THE CIF, BUT NOT NEGLECT THE IBMND IN THE PROCESS.
MASTERS

SECRET

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